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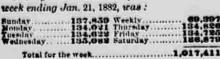
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The regular circulation of THE SUN for



For Secretary of the Treasury. Some remarks of our esteemed contem-

porary, the Times, of yesterday, make us doubt the clearness of its ideas about what renders a man unfit for public office. Our contemporary thoughtlessly couples

its objections to SARGENT and CHANDLER with an unfavorable criticism of the proposition that Roscoe Conkling shall be the successor of Judge Folger.

Between Mr. CONKLING and the two other men no comparison can be drawn. The objections against him cannot be the same as those against SARGENT and CHANDLER. The Times has shown that SARGENT is unfit for the Cabinei because he is dishonest, and CHANDLER is likewise objectionable, though far less so than SARGENT.

The appointment of Mr. CONKLING must be opposed for a very different reason. He is a thoroughgoing third-termer. From some unaccountable delusion in favor of a man who, through two terms of the Presidency, sank it so deep in corruption that nothing short of a political revolution can ever pull it entirely out of the slough, he would take the first steps toward changing this republic into an empire.

Mr. CONKLING fought for this delusion with unprecedented vigor at Chicago, and he is for it still. His purpose is as undisguised as his mode of warfare. And no man can say he is not honest. Those who believe in his ideas have a right to uphold him and his faction. He means GRANT, and nothing else. Such a man is not to be classed with trash like SARGENT. Noxious political views are not to be confounded with pecuniary dishonesty.

We think it would be a mistake to appoint Mr. CONKLING to the Treasury, because he would use its power and influence to promote the third-term conspiracy.

The Canal Amendment to the Constitution.

The last Legislature passed a constitutional amendment for the rollef of the canals. Before it can become a part of the Constitution it must pass the present Legislature, and then be submitted to the people and be approved by a majority of the votes cast on that subject. The friends of the pending amendment desire prompt action by the Legislature, and a submission of the question at the ballot boxes early in the spring, so that if the measure be ratified the canals can begin to reap its benefits at the opening of navigation.

The three main features of the amendment are, first, the abolition of all State tolls and charges on boats, freights, and passengers on the canals; secondly, the payment of the current expenses of the canals by taxation; and thirdly, the gradual extinction of the little that remains of the canal debt, by means of a sinking fund, to be supplied by taxation. It is argued with great force that if New York expects to retain the scaboard trade of the West, the State must not tax it for pass-

ing through the canals. To aid them in their struggle with the railroads, they must be free of tolls. This, too, would enable them to keep pace with the recent improvements in the navigation of the Mississippi River and the Welland Canal, by means of which transportation to the ocean by those routes has been facilitated.

The canals, and particularly the Erie and Oswego, have conferred incalculable benefits upon the State. Their existence and prosperity are necessary for holding fast to our due share of Western trade. The people may find it for their interest to pay the small amount of taxation which the canals require for waging a successful battle against competition. At all events, it is safe to give them an opportunity to vote upon the question.

The Right Course for the Coroner's

There is new light on the Spuyten Duyvil accident. It now seems tolerably certain that the express train was stopped by the unauthorized interference of some passenger with the air brake. And the statement is telegraphed from Albany that the air-brake cord was pulled by a certain member of the Legislature.

Those who are responsible for this assertion, however, decline to name the man.

The Coroner's jury must have his name. Immediately after the disaster, there were rumors that some of the passengers on the express train had been rather boisterous. The conductor has distinctly testified that some of them were intoxicated. "The real foundation of this accident," he says, "was rum." And when asked by one of the jurymen who the drunken passengers were, he answered: "Oh, ex-Coroners, ex-Aldermen,

Assemblymen, and such." At Albany the drunkenness is denied, but It is admitted that there was "some hilarity' during the trip.

This denial avails nothing against the sworn testimony of the conductor.

The course which ought to be pursued by the Coroner's jury is clear. Every member of the Legislature who is known to have been on that train should be summoned and examined as a witness at the inquest.

The people want to know the name of their representative who amused himself by pulling the cord of the air brake at the trifling expense of eight or nine human lives.

It is evident that he is just the sort of man that should have his name consplcuously printed in the newspapers. He should not be left to languish in obscurity any longer.

Of course, his fatal carelessness does not relieve the management of the railroad from responsibility. But we know already that the company was inexcusably negligent. The facts show that. The more interesting question now is who else was to blame.

The name of the conductor of the express is known to the public. Few people will be anxious hereafter to travel on a train with him as conductor.

The name of the rear brakeman of the express is known to the public. Few people will be anxious to travel on a train with him

The name of the member of the Legisla

fun and stopped the train must also be made known to the public, in order that people may also be on their guard against him, and that every man, woman, and child in the State may know whom to shun as a fellow passenger.

The Big End and the Little End of the Horn.

When a college takes in about five hundre students, and at the end of five years turns out less than fifty graduates, does it not look as if the educational machinery was grinding to little purpose? Is it not fair to conclude that the collegiate mill is too big and its equipment too ponderous for the results accomplished?

At a late meeting of the trustees of the College of the City of New York, the college which costs the city between one and two hundred thousand dollars a year, it was reported that the number of students now in the institution is 926. Of itself that is a large total; but when we put it by the side of the multitude of youngsters who are unable to get in the primary and grammar schools of the crowded wards, it seems very small.

How are those 926 students divided among the different classes of this costly college supported by the taxpayers? According to the report presented on Tuesday night there were at the opening of the year in the four college classes and in the introductory department the following number of students:

Introductory	ŝ	k	'n	þ	8	1	۱
Freshmen	'n	¥	ű	À		ì	i
Sophomores	٠	¥	÷	ŧ	.,	,	•
Juniors	ä	ä	í	ú	ű	٠	į

That is, of the pupils who entered, less than one-tenth are pursuing the course to the end. As a high school, with a single year's course, the institution seems to be fairly successful; but as soon as it asks its students to step beyond into its regular collegiate department, they drop off rapidly. Nearly two-thirds go at once. At the end of the first college year the number is still further reduced, so that the sophomore class contains less than a quarter as many students as originally entered the institution. By the time the junior class is reached less than a seventh remain, and in the last collegiate year the professors can muster only 47 boys, not a tenth part of the introductory class. Yet to instruct these rapidly decreasing

college classes as the course proceeds, nineteen professors and tutors are employed, while fourteen are taken up with the teaching of the introductory or high school class, which contains nearly seventy more pupils than the four college classes put together. As a college, though it is free, with every-

thing given to the pupils in the way of books and implements of study, the institution in Lexington avenue is so little patronized that it turns out on commencement day a graduating class not greater than that of a third or fourth rate country college.

The free college of the greatest city of the Union can get only forty-seven youth to follow its course! Is that not enough to show that the demand for the institution is too insignificant to be regarded? At the same time, too, elementary schools, also supported by the taxpayers, are turning away youngsters because they have no room for them. The great demand is left unsatisfied, while the ambitions of the fortunate few are gratified at the public expense.

The Progress of Harvard College.

The attempt that has for some years been made by the Harvard authorities to transform their institution from a species of upper grammar school-which is the conception of college still most widely prevalent in the United States into a veritable university, is watched with keen interest by the friends of the higher education. It has been prophesied in some quarters that the changes of organization rendered necessary by the change of aim would be found in practice to have untoward consequences, including a marked decline in the order and discipline of the college community, and a growing neglect of see, by the report of President ELIOT for the last academical year, that those predictions have not been verified.

Looking back over the period of ten years, during which the elective plan has been more or less completely substituted for the old compulsory scheme of work, we can detect no tendency toward the extinction of the traditional, or so-called liberal studies. As much time, for example, will be devoted to Greek by the students of the college proper during the coming twelvemonth as was the case six years ago; and if the time given to Latin has been materially curtailed during the same term, the fact is explicable by the much more exacting demands now made at the entrance examination as regards the knowledge of that language. An intelligent young man who finds himself already qualified, on his admission to college, to read a Latin author with tolerable facility, would naturally prefer to concentrate his labors on a subject with which he is less conversant. We need not say that in Germany the work of teaching Greek as well as Latin is done at the gymnasia, not at the universities; and in proportion as Harvard raises the standard of acquirement requisite for admission, we may expect to see the study of the classical languages more and more relegated to the preparatory schools. The fact that a pedagogue's business of teaching boys to construe with the help of grammar and dictionary was performed in the proper place, would no more discredit Greek and Latin at Harvard than it does in Germany, where the study of those languages is accounted the indispensable

groundwork of a university education. It cannot be denied, however, that, according to the data collected in this report, the elective plan has not been favorable to the study of mathematics, pure or applied. A large majority of the students manifestly prefer languages, metaphysics, history, and political science, to mathematics and physics. President Elior suggests that this predilection may be an effect of a too exclusively linguistic training supplied by the preparatory schools. It is probable, also, that the scientifle school, which is a cognate department of the university, draws off from the college proper many of the students feeling a genuine natural predisposition to scientific studies. Before leaving this subject we may remark that a good deal of space is still allotted in the Harvard curriculum to German, French, Spanish, and Italian. In Germany the modern languages of Western Europe must be acquired at school, or by private study, if at all; and although the English universities offer some facilities for such attainments, they are not allowed any weight in determining qualifications for a degree. If it be true that, under the present Harvard system, a young man can obtain the diploma of Bachelor of Arts by demonstrating some knowledge of history and political science, coupled with a capacity for reading three or four of the modern languages, then we must insist that, so far as he is concerned, such a certificate lacks the weight and significance which attach to university degrees in Europe. As we have formerly pointed out, we have seldom seen a

young man who could not acquire the mod-

ern languages of western Europe without as-

sistance provided he had turned to account | olis last June must wait teclve years after

the opportunities of mental discipline and equipment supplied by a university career.

As regards the professional schools com-prised in Harvard University, we are glad to see that the conditions prescribed for entrance and graduation are being made more arduous, and enforced with rigor. The time has gone by when men could go forth with a degree from the medical or law or divinity school at Harvard who could not by any pos sibility have passed the examination for admission to the freshman class in the college proper. In our judgment, the final step in this wise and necessary reform will not be taken until no person shall be eligible to the Harvard professional schools who cannot exhibit an A. B. degree from some well-reputed college. Meanwhile, however, the standard of acquirement for admission has been so materially raised as to effectually put an end to what was at one time a scandal. The number of applicants for entrance has naturally been a good deal diminished, but the university will gain in reputation by the absence of men who sought to gain the credit without possessing even the groundwork of

a liberal education. We learn that the discipline and order of the college community have been sensibly improved by the abandonment of the old pedagogle restraints and penalties. When the faculty gave up the practice of punishing faults of deportment by deductions from marks acquired by scholarship, and followed this step in the right direction by abolishing the former system of parietal warnings and private or public admonitions, it was apprehended that they might be forced to have recourse so frequently to the extreme measures of suspension and expulsion as to seriously deplete the number of undergraduates. As a matter of fact, we learn from the Dean's report that there were but few occasions for disciplinary measures during the last year, and in only two of them did the faculty find it necessary to inflict the penalty of suspension. This remarkable exhibit shows how needless it is to impose police duties on the college officers when, as is the case at Harvard, students enter the Institution at a rea-

sonably mature age.
In connection with this topic, another fact may be noted with satisfaction. When the Harvard authorities abolished the traditional prescription making attendance at lectures and recitations compulsory, it was supposed that the liberty would be largely abused, and there is no doubt that in some of the colleges at Oxford, where a like system obtains, an idle young man may manage to live one or more years before his grotesque unfitness for residence in such a place is publicly demonstrated. At Harvard such abuses are guarded against by frequent and rigorous examinations, at which, if an undergraduate fails to show a certain measure of attainment, he is dropped without ceremony into the class below. This treatment, which is of course made known to a young man's parents, seems to prove an adequate safeguard against the waste of time in idleness and dissipation. Notwithstanding the constantly increasing range and severity of these examinations, the number of students falling out of their classes, or failing altogether to secure a degree, has not materially increased during the last six years. One vestige of the old-fashioned paternal system still remains. For the present, attendance at morning prayers on week days continues to be compulsory, although the hour has been advanced from a quarter before eight to a quarter before nine. We

know of no ground on which such attendance should be prescribed in American more than in German universities. It appears that President ELIOT lately undertook, by the application of a simple test, to ascertain how general, sincere, and worthy of respect was the alleged opposition to the abolition of this practice. He addressed a circular to the parents or guardians of all the undergraduates, asking whether, as a matter of fact, they held daily morning prayers in their own households. The number of replies received Yes, and five-sevenths answered No. view of the facts thus brought out, it is scarcely reasonable to ask that college officers shall take more thought for the religlous observances of undergraduates than is

taken in their own homes. Making Places for the Middles.

The bill to secure the promotion of midshipmen and cadet engineers, introduced into the Senate by Mr. VEST, has some queer features. It begins by repealing the law which now fixes the maximum number of ensigns at one hundred, and provides, instead, that an unlimited number of midshipmen, one year after their appointment as such, may be promoted to the grade of ensign on passing the required examination. Next, it abolishes the law limiting the number of the assistant engineers to one hundred, and establishes the additional grade of subassistant engineer, with the rank of midshipmen and with the pay now provided for cadet engineers who have passed their final academic examination and have not yet been made assistant engineers. This new grade is to be for cadet engineers who have had two years of service on naval steamers after graduation at the Naval Academy; and at the end of a year in this new grade, sub-assistant engineers may be promoted to be assistant en-

gineers on passing the examination. The first inquiry is as to the pressing need of more ensigns and assistant engineers in the navy. The service is notoriously overstocked with officers. The grades are all jammed full, and were it known that next year it would be necessary to double the number of vessels now in commission, there would be a goodly supply of officers ready for the extra vessels. In order to help draw off the surplus from the active list, the navy retired list, unlike the army, has been made unlimited; and as an additional aid, after a certain age, or a certain length of service, all officers on the active list are forced upon the retired list, whether they want to go there or not. Despite these devices, the personnel of the navy is always overflowing, and, after serupulous division of labor in shore duty, there are still always many officers awaiting orders till something is found for them to do.

Mr. Vest's anxiety, therefore, to procure more officers is strange. The explanation is that not only are the existing grades full, but there are scores and hundreds of candidates now below the grades of ensign and assistant engineer who are clamorous to be put on the rounds of promotion. In spite of our lack of war vessels to command, and our surplus of officers to command them, the Naval Academy is turning out fresh midshipmen and engineers every year with an untiring energy and industry and in a prodigious volume, reminding one of the salt mill in the story, which, after it had ground out more salt than was needed, kept on grinding, and couldn't be stopped, and still kept on when it fell into the ocean, and made the whole sea briny. The last an nual report of the Academy at Annapolis, rendered by Rear Admiral C. R. P. RODGERS, then its superintendent, says that there were then nearly 200 cadet midshipmen awaiting promotion to the lowest commissioned grade, that of ensign, " for which some of the naval aspirants who finished their course at Annap

their admission to this establishment." Rear

Admiral Roders also adds these reflections "The average age of the ten lowest of these young officers who will be the last promoted, is at this momen twenty two years. Under our present system this num ber of midshipmen will increase every year; a sorr; ber of midsingness with increasing number of graduates waiting with hope long deferred for promotion to the lowest grade of commissioned officers. We shall also, under the present system, graduate every year more callet engineers than will supply the annual waste of their corps."

Next June this body of would-be commis sioned officers will be increased by another year's product of the Academy, and so it will be each succeeding twelvementh.

This spectacle, and not any need of mor officers in the navy, has prompted Senator Vest's bill. Of course he is all wrong in his remedy. His scheme is preposterous. Admiral Rodoers suggested four years ago the true remedy, and he repeated it in his last report, when the evil complained of had greatly increased. He did not ask that the number of ensigns and assistant engineers should be increased, but that the number of cadets annually appointed to the Academy should be "largely decreased." If this should be refused, he next suggested that "some able actuary be found to calculate the annual waste of the navy, both of the line and the engineer corps," and also to calculate how many cadets of the second class in the Academy would be needed to supply this waste:

"The number of cadets for the second class being thus decided, admission to it should be the prize for which all entering the Navai Academy should compete during the first two years of their novitiate. Those who failed to win the prizes might graduate at the end of their firs two years, and return to their homes with an honorable diploma, and would well repay the country for the cost of their training by carrying to every Congressional dis-trict in the land the habit of discipline, the traditions of military life, and a practical knowledge of the use arms, which would make them invaluable in the organization of volunteer regiments whenever the country ound occasion to call its citizens to arms."

If Senator VEST should substitute for his pending bill one or the other of Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers's plans, it would become more worthy of consideration.

A Dangerous Defender.

The Rev. GEORGE P. FISHER, one of the professors in the Yale Divinity School at New Haven, makes, in the February North American Review, a reply of fifty pages in length to Robert G. Ingersoll's assaults upon Christianity previously printed in the same review, and incompletely answered by the Hon. JEREMIAH S. BLACK. We do not know how his performance impresses other people, but it seems to us to be as far off as Mr. BLACK's was from silencing the audaclous infidel and dissipating his arguments.

The ground taken by Prof. FISHER at the commencement is a practical abandonment to his opponent of the vital point in dispute: "The question respecting any creed proposed for belief, whether in religion or philosophy or science, is whether the reasons for it are stronger than the reasons against it, and whether they are enough stronger to justify credence. Christianity asks no more for itself tha

is conceded to every other system and theory. That is, Christianity is not a divinely revealed system of doctrine, demanding reverential faith, but one concerning which we must weigh probabilities and form an opinion, as we would concerning any other subject. Consequently, Prof. FISHER vindicates it from Mr. INGERSOLL's charge of having caused great misery and bloodshed on earth, by saying that human love and human government have done the same! Mr. INGERSOLL asserts that Christianity is a humanly contrived system, and therefore imperfect. It is susceptible of perversion, and has been perverted to the grossest cruelties. Prof. FISHER says the same, and to that extent, backs up INGERSOLL!

In regard to the inspiration of the Bible, Prof. FISHER is equally unreserved in his concessions. The Old Testament was merely provisional, and its laws "fell short of the absolute standard of moral duty." The Gospels, he says, were not written until years after Christianity was complete, and no one holds that they were dictated to the writers by the Deity. That they contain no condemnation of slavery, is because such a condemnation would have "When all the literary evidence is scanned and all the collateral proofs weighed, the conclusion will be that we have presented to us in the Gospels the story which the Apostles told of what they had seen and heard in their intercourse with JESUS." Yes; but did they observe carefully and tell accurately? Prof. FISHER says Yes! Mr. INGERSOLL says No! And, the divine inspiration of the New Testament being admitted by its advocate to amount to nothing, the record becomes in-

sufficient to settle the dispute. After these wholesale surrenders to the enemy, Prof. FISHER's culogium of Christianity, and his picture of the melancholy condition of mankind without religion, are of

small moment. The difference between Prof. FISHER and Col. INGERSOLL appears to be merely a difference in degree.

Two Questions About Social Customs. A correspondent propounds to us a question about which very much might be written, for it relates to that most delightful of subjects, the dinner. What he asks, however, concerns only a custom of the table:

" Does the lasty of a house sit at the head, and the hus band at the fout of the table, or vice versa! In other words, which presides !" As the head of the house, the husband may be said to preside at the dinner table. But practically, husband and wife occupy places of equal importance. The most honored manly guest sits at the right hand of the wife, and the lady to whom the highest distinction

husband. How, then, can one end of the table be of a dignity superior to the other? At the present time, too, the English custom of putting the host and hostess opposite each other at the middle of the table is largely followed in this country; and a very sensible and convenient custom it is. Thus husband and wife sit in the midst of their guests and are much better situated for their entertainment than if the whole length of the table separated the pair. The company, too, can thus be better placed for their common

enjoyment. Who presides at the table, is not the important question for consideration. It is rather, who shall compose the dinner party, and how shall they be disposed with reference to each other ! The great thing is to so pair people off at table that they will get along agreeably together. Unless that happy arrangement is brought about by the skill and tact of host and hostess, their banquet will not be thoroughly successful, no matter if the artist who presides in the kitchen possesses the most cautiful gastronomic genius. "Better a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled

ox and hatred therewith." Another question submitted to us concerns the color of the necktie to be worn at dinners and other evening entertainments. It is asked by a classical friend as follows:

"Your occasional articles on manners, dress, and per sonal habits are most interesting and instructive. "In my opinion, from observations made in French society and at the Grand Opera in Paris, a white necktie for evening dress is not comme if faut. The French men, without exception, wore black neckties and dove-colored gloves. Such few white neckties and white gloves as were visible seemed to be worn by English or

"Will you kindly give us your views upon this subject? "Socialis Hypograsses."
In spite of what our correspondent says,

the white necktie for evening dress at the opera or elsewhere is worn in Paris, as well as

in London and New York. Black ties may be used here to some extent, but the white ones are more correct and more general. As to gloves, however, the customs are different in Paris and New York. Here neither white nor dove-colored gloves are now worn in the evening by men, unless when they are dancing. So small, indeed, is the demand for white gloves of sizes suitable for men, that their price is now much smaller than that of

the different colors and shades for day wear. Moreover, the privilege of leaving off gloves in the evening is one so precious that men will not readily give it up. It saves them expense and increases their comfort. Nor is there any good reason why they should not continue to enjoy it. White gloves, espe-

cially, do not add to the beauty of man. We admit, however, that women nows days are not holding men strictly enough up to their social obligations. They are presuming on little concessions granted, like that of not requiring gloves in the evening, and are omitting to perform social duties and exhibit delicate attentions which were once obligatory on all gentlemen. Our advice to ladies is to keep the men under stricter discipline, and frown on all their tendencies to lapse into negligent ways. The manners of our young fellows especially need improvement.

Shall We Gratify Robeson ?

SECOR ROBESON is the leader of the Republican side of the House, and fit leader he is of a House so organized. He has made up his mind in favor of another carnival of jobbery in the Navy Department, and has had himself so placed as to have control of the contemplated expenditures. They say they want \$30,000,000, but if they are allowed to go on at all, we will be extremely lucky if we get off

for a hundred millions. But what do we want with a great navy? The transcontinental railroads, opening to the farmer and the grazier the vast and fertile regions beyond the Mississippi, have done more to secure us in honorable peace with all the world than could have been done by the navies of England and the armies of Germany combined. While Europe depends upon us for its food, and to a large extent for the raw material of its manufactures, we shall find wheat, cotton, corn, and beef a better defence than mercenary soldiers or costly ships.

Anyway, if we are to have a navy, we may be sure we will pay more and get less while SECOR ROBESON has direction of the appropriations than with any other man in control of the committee.

Lawyer Scoville has had many rebuffs and kicks from all sides, his own client joining in the general abuse; but perhaps the unkindest cut was Guiteau's munificent announcement yesterday of his intention to reward him soon for his long labors by a very liberal fee. Perhaps it will be paid in some of those worthess checks for hundreds and thousands of dollars which practical jokers, in a much misplaced jesting, have been sending to GUITEAU.

The fate of RUN-ABOUT-SIX should b terrible warning to other hunters besides those of his own color. This big Indian of the Delaware nation, having got drunk, while hunting, with three comrades, in the Indian Territory, ay down to sleep by a fire of logs, one of which rolled on and roasted him to death. The combination of fire and fire water was too much for RUN-ABOUT-SIX; but under the strict rules regarding the sale of liquor in the Territory, how did they get enough of it to make four red men

Bird fanciers may be interested in what Consul Baker of Buenos Ayres has to say, in his last report to the State Department, on the domestication of that fine large bird, the ostrich. He tells what he knows about ostrich farming on the La Plata, and is convinced that it would pay handsomely in the United States. Importing camels has never proved a very thriving business in this country, but the ostrich industry is a different affair. "Five thousand birds," says Consul Barer, "can be kept on six thousand acres of land." There would be of advertisements. little trouble, perhaps, in getting the land out West but there would be some expense in getting the five thousand birds. For the Consul adds incidentally that the full-grown birds cost \$1,000 to \$1,200 delivered at Buenes Ayres. Supposing them to cost \$1,200 apiece delivered in the Mississippi Valley, the five thousand mentioned by the Consul for a good six-thousand-acre farm would cost \$6,000,000. However, the ostrich crops are among the most lucrative known to farming. Thus, the chicks of one pair of birds will bring in a gross income of \$2,000 or \$3,000 per annum, so valuable are the feathers. It is only strange that this kind of farming did not attract LE Duc; but probably he thought there was more money in tea

The story of the assault by a German belonging to a waxworks troupe upon a soldier in Cairo, and the mobbing of the whole waxworks show by the populace, sounds more like a chapter out of ARTEMAS WARD than like sober his tory. It is really, however, an incident of anything but a comic situation-of a national and international complication, indeed, of the gravest character,

A European tourist of the kind that presupposes New.York to be mainly peopled by Indians might be mystifled, on landing here at this season, to learn that the Benevolent Buffaloes had just had a grand dance, that the Tigers had held another in Boston, and that the Elks would soon disport themselves at a ball. Perhaps, however, in visiting some such entertainments, he might concede the fitness of the menagerie names, and gladly frisk a little himself with the froliesome animals.

Postmaster-General Hown has begun his is given is placed at the right hand of the reform of the methods of his predecessors by stopping the practice of having engraved upon the warrants of the department the portrait of its chief. Instead of his own spare features. the calm, strong face of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN will appear. Inasmuch as FRANKLIN was the Postmaster-General in colonial times, the appropriateness of the selection is manifest.

The prevalence of petty bribery by means of free passes has stirred the Iowa Legislature to action. On Friday the lower House passed resolution calling on the Railway Commission to report the extent to which free passes are bestowed, and whether a law should not be passed prohibiting the giving of passes to members of the press, public officers, and delegates to conventions. If the lown Legislature can stop the practice it will work a great benefit to public morals.

Xerotine siccatine or siccative is now said to be the cause of the Doterel disaster of last April. Whother Jack Tar will take in this explanation and feel easier about going in her Majesty's ships, now that he knows that it wasn't dynamite, or torpedoes, or Fenianism that blew up the Doterel, but only xerotine siccative, remains to be seen.

Sir George Nares, who enjoys the honor of having been closer to the North Pole than any other Arctic explorer, arrived in this city from Liverpool yes terday.—Pribune. Sir George Names does not enjoy any such

nonor at ali. Capt. ALBERT H. MARKHAM is the Dr. John C. Dalton will lecture before the

Alumni Association of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Association Hall on three successive Tues day evenings, beginning with Tuesday evening next. The first lecture will be on Galvanism in the Study of the Nervous System, the second on Buffon and Bonnet in the Eighteenth Century, and the third on Nervous Degenera. ate the Cartwright course for the present year.

SECOR ROBESON'S BLACK EYE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 .- The swelling selfimportance of Secor Robeson collapsed very suddenly in the House last Thursday, when the malcontents got in their work effectively. set up as the chosen lender of his party, assumed the airs of authority, and, having the Speaker at his back, he proposed to dictate the

policy to be adopted. Having outraged the intelligence and the integrity of the House by packing the committees for jobbery and corruption, Secor Robeson thought he would placate the anger of the insuited Republicans by enlarging some of the conspicuous committees, and by thus providing

places for the soreheads.

This expedient had been tried in the last Congress, as Mr. Randall says at his suggestion, estensibly to promote the public business, but really to relieve certain embarrassments connected with the Speaker's election Therefore, Mr. Randall and Mr. Blackburn, members of the Committee on Rules, appeared as lieutenants to Secor Robeson in the debate, and aided him zealously in this movement.

But, even with their open and urgent efforts, dozen Democrats could not be persuaded to fall into line, and on the test vote Secor Robeson and his allies were beaten deservedly by sixty-nine majority. With all his audacity,

sixty-nine majority. With all his audacity, Robeson was driven into a hasty retreat by the younger members of his own party, which did not save him from the humiliation of a crushing downfall.

This defeat at the very start of the session, and with the Speaker sustaining him on the lirst serious trial of strength, necessarily cripples the assumed leadership of this notorious jobber, and sends him to the rear in disgrace.

The House property put an end to one source of bargaining; in regard to the Speakership by refusing to enlarge the committees. The faise protence set up by the advocates of that scheme was refuted absolutely by the experience of the last House. It is true, more bills were reported than in the previous Congress, but with what result?

than in the previous Congress, but with what result?

Fourteen hundred bills were registered on the calendar, which became a huge mausoleum for proposed legislation involving private rights and measures of public interest. They were absolutely under the control of the Speaker, who could recognize whom he pleased, and who could suppress any member with a special object. The only possible mode of reaching a bill on that calendar was by a suspension of the rules, easily defeated by a sign from the Speaker, and only requiring a fraction over one-third of the votes to do it.

No power exists in this Government to-day so dangerous and so capable of perversion to personal, party, or pecuniary ends as that in the hands of the Speaker, who holds the reins of legislation, and who pulls the wires in all the principal committees. It has received one check in the overthrow of Secor Robeson, but the most effective blow would be for the House to resume its original authority.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir : I take the liberty to solicit your kindness in asking you to speak to your art critic to request him to give me a line on my rother's pictures, just sent to the water color exhibition

oon to open. New York, —— street, Jan. 17.

THE SUN employs competent persons and sends them around to note what of interest is occurring from time to time, to see what is worth seeing, to consider the pictures and sculptures that are produced, or to listen to what some body says, or sings, or to music of any sort. When they find anything they think the public would like to hear about, or anything that is of such a nature that they think the public should have their attention called to it, then they reduce what they have to say to writing, and it is published in The Sun, where our million readers can see it.
These persons, whether men or women,

are selected for their duties because they possess intelligence and character and know what they have to write on; and then they are told to go about their business and use their judgment and knowledge for the best interests of the public and THE SUN, which are about the same. The editor doesn't interfere or dictate what they shall say, other than that he has an eye to the general tone and direction of their criticisms. He doesn't seek to influence their opinion or call their attention to any little personal matter. If he finds that other people are becoming successful in this direction, then good-by to the critic.

But perhaps our correspondent simply wanted a notice without the slightest desire to influence the tenor of the criticism one way or the other. If all the correspondent wants is a notice, so that people may learn that at such a place there are wares for sale of such a sort, this sort of a notice any one can have. It costs

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Does ice form on the top or bottom of a lody of water? After a pond is once frezen over does not the ice make on top of the water and adhere to the bottom of the first ice, and so continue to grow thicker?

Ice ordinarily forms on the surface. Under certain conditions ice, called anchor ice, forms at the bottom. Ice on the surface of a pond

A Governor in Need of Light. From Bradstreet's.

The Governor of the State of New York is seriously in need of light on the tax question. In his message of the other day he virtually recommends that an attempt be made to so perfect the assessment laws that the taxes nominally levied on personal property can be collected. A more ridiculous proposition could scarcely be given out by the Governor of a great State. It is an insuit to the intelligence of Gov. Cornell to even imagine that his utterances on this subject are any thing more than an attempt to cater to the projudices of the farmers. The late Isane Sherman, who did such good work in clearing up the subject of taxation that no good reason exists for Gov. Cornell's apparent ig-norance, formulated a most feasible plan of taxation for the state of New York, under which personal property was to be practically free from direct taxes. Mr Sherfollowing words: "Under the proposed system, primary taxation is limited to real estate and a few hundred bankers and corporations, and the great mass of the people will be free from the unnecessary annoyance and inquithis ays, em will finally be found uniformly adjusted in all prices of consumable commodities and in renta."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The

question of the further reduction of the national debt is not getting the attention it deserves. Thegeneration that fenglit the war to a successful conclusion, and who have since made such noble efforts to pay the debt have done enough. The debt is funded at a low rate of interest; let takes be imposed summent to

run the Government only and pay that interest; repeal all stand taxes (that on mutches surely) to begin with. and all internal resenue taxes.

I don't believe a national dobt is a national blessing; yet the Irishman who wanted to know what posterily had

To the Epiron of The Sun-Sir: According to Mr. O'Donovan Rossa, "hatred of England is a sentiment which Oscar Wilde imbibed with his mother's milk to become the idol of fasmountie London society, M With alopts a singular method of showing his harred? Curiously enough, there is not among his possus a solitary allusion to Ireland, but references to "our English land" and Eurlish celebrities are frequent, while the patriotic verses entitled "Avo Imperators," are entirely a tribute to Eucland's greatues had Wilde, by the way has lately joined the Forg English movement "for the relief of distressed frish lattes." Ossgaven. New York, Jan. 20.

Beccher's Backdown. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Henry

Nard Beecher does not take back his vile charge against the Brooklyn school teachers and the Fourd of Educa-tion. He only says, "Let it be as if the words had not been spoken." This thought occurs to me. If some de-termined woman should full upon the cheerful had and give him the threshing he so richly murits, would be let that be as if it had not been?

Saw Yors, Jan 20.

Working and Stealing.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Can any of your Christian readers inform one who must right or wrong steal and violate the law, or else be a Christian and starve a wife and family, and who has no work and no industrice, where he can get work? FRIENDLESS Naw YORK, Jan. 19

The Army and Navy Journal publishes a list of 1,300 naval officers, arranged in the order of procedence de-termined by a Board of which Commodore Febiger was President. The Board has made a serious upaciting i

A dull headache, costiveness, low spirits, and no appetite are some of the indications of a billous attack, arising from a torpid liver. Dr dayne's Sanative Pills will soon restore the liver to action drive all symptoms of billouness from the system, and assist in bringing about a regular action of the boweis—44c.

SUNDEAMS.

-For more than twenty years the Rev. Dr

tyder has been pastor of St. Paul's Universalist Churc n Chicago. He now resigns and goes to Rurope. -"The second consins of the corpse will

new come forward and take their places," the under taker aunounced at a funeral, with considerable pomp and dismity.

-A discussion, savoring somewhat of the nature of a conflict, is going on in Chicago between the Rev. Herrick Johnson, D. D., and some of the theatrical

people of that city. -Francis Murphy is progressing with his temperative work in Forfar, Scotland, where he is car-rying on a crutande against the figure shops. In two days

about 1,200 persons samed the picket.

The Church of England civity have been among the bear sest suffer on of the long agreenitural de-pression in England. Sany have been unable to leave heirgiete lands. One well-known divine has let has vicarage, dispensed with servants, and taken a cottage

-"I merely throw out the idea," a youthful elergyman remarked with some degree of embarrass-ment, after making a suggestion in Presbytery, "Well," a white-haired old dominic said, "that is the very best thing you can do with it." There was a slient assent on the part of a majority of the brothren.

-A prominent Brooklyn clergyman said to his hearers: "The men who graduate from the peni-tentiaries—the average of them—are just as good as I am or as you are." The people have not found out whether he meant to make a very good case for the jail birds or to abuse himself and his congregation by compariso

-Some spiritualists quoted the Rev. Dr. Macloskie of Princeton, N. J., as having been a witness of certain spiritualistic manifestations. The Doctor, in denying the truth of what the spiritualists say, adds that their use of his name in the way they have used it gives him additional evidence that all such spiritualistic ma -A Connecticut jury set aside a will which

had been made by a spiritualist. The ground of this verdict was that a person who is a spiritualist is neces-sarily insane. The parties interested in the will appealed the case one of the chief grounds of anneal being the the jury was composed chiefly of Congrega descons who were prejudiced against spiritualism. -An Englishman who had recently visited this country astonished his London friends when in a speech he told them that he had been in a Presbyterian

church which cost \$750 (xx). The one he referred to was

the stately structure on Fifth avenue where the multi-tudes throng to hear the Rev. Dr. Hall. There are no such costly Presbyterian churches in England. -Nearly all the religious papers are discussing Mermonism; some wisely and some otherwise The general difficulty of the writers on this subject fo the religious press is that they think the Government can wipe the Mormons out on account of their religion views. The question of Mormonism is as great a puzzle to the churches and to the religious community as it is

-The Rev. Charles H. Eaton, Dr. Chapin's successor, preached a caim and temperate sermon on theatres and theatregoing. He advised his hearers to to the theatre in moderation, but to draw the dis-tinction beween good plays and immoral ones. He gave a good rule on the subject for the benefit of young men;

a good rule on the subject for the beneat of young men; namely, that no young man cught to go to any place or to witness any spectacle where he would be unwilling to take his mother or sister.

—Moody and Sankey have been crowding the Free Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Mr. Moody has enlisted the sympathy of the Scotch children to a re-markable extent. He invited them to bring on a certain day such contributions as they could spare from their homes of toys which had been given them and which they were willing to give to poor children who were without these luxuries. The result was the bringing of

enough toys to fill two large wagons.

—Brother Conway of Brooklyn strikes back at Brother Fulton, and makes sundry unpleasant allegations about the pastor. Conway compares his case to that of a Louisiana negro who was before a colored Judge. The defendant's attorney offered both law and evidence to prove his client's innocence. The Judge re-plied: "No use ob law an evidence, sah; de Court is agin you." Conway says that Fulton managed the church meeting much after the fashion in which this Judge held court. Feeling rages very high over the matter between

the adherents of the contending parties.

—Father Chiniquy is an ecclesiastic who has had an extraordinary and diversified experience He was originally a Roman Catholic priest, but he be came a Protestant, and figured extensively as an oppo-ment of the Catholic Church. Then he joined the Pres-byterians, and has worked with them both in Illinois and in various parts of Canada. Now he comes to this city to unite with the Rev. Mr. Seguin in carrying on the French Baptist mission. He preaches at the hall of this mission, in Bleecker street, this afternoon, and will plead the cause of French Protestants in Affociation

Hall this evening.

The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, who knows more about Aleaka than any other elergyman in this country. - I, in the Central Presbyterian Church, on Pifty-seventh street, this evening tell what he knows about mission work among the Alaskaus. Dr. Jackson recently said that one of the greatest helps to mission work in Alaska would be a portable saw mill, which would cost about \$2,000. This would be a valuable sid to the better class of Indians in building houses. These Indians are disposed to build, and they have plenty of

axes in a rude sort of a way. -The Rev. George Muller of the Bristol Orphanage is still travelling in the East. At the latest accounts he was in Egypt, pushing his way toward palestine. The Orphan House has a steady income from benevolent persons who have acquired a limit of giving to it. While Mr. Muller is away it is so well managed by others that his absence is not an injury to it. Now that Mr. Muller is advancing in years, he has a restless desire to see the world, and to encourage such companies of Christians as he can find in remote places. He is now bent on cheering up the Christians that he may find its

ing in various parts of the Holy Land. He will probably visit Australia next year. -Two of the principal Presbyterian churches in this city have recently been entered by burglars From the First Church, which is in Fifth avenue, the miscreants stole the Key, Dr. Paxton's costly black silk gown. From the Brick Church they took one chesp s ver-plated cup. What they were after was solid silver communion ware. Had they been very intelligent bur-glars, they would have known that the churches that have communion service of solid sliver do not generally keep it on the premises, but send it to the threproof safe of one of the wealthy church members. The practice of using plated ware for communion purposes has of law years been largely on the increase. It does as well a

-Bishop A. Cleveland Coxe has a good word to say for Father Lovson-Hyacinthe. He says of this eccentric preacher that he has been involved in many troubles through all of which he has passed with a warm regard for M. Loyson, and that Loyson is worth; of it. Besides preaching in Paris. M. Loyson is invited to many other places for special and occasional discourses. He has been warmly received at Toulouse an laewhere. It is suid that many French priests apply to him for work, and would foin him if he could give then steady occupation. Some of these are excellent men, who are not at home in the Roman Catholic Church and some are uneasy cranks who would be restless any where. One of Loyson's chief troubles has been his as-sociation with men who have proved amountly.

day's Sunday school lesson, which is found in Mark II. healer of disease and the Saviour of sinners. At Cape cum He healed a man who was paleted, the man having teen let down through the open roof into the milst of the assembled company. Christ healed this man by saying "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." There were critical scribes present, who began to find fault. He pu them to confusion by immediately and stately sured the sufferer. Then He thursh by the scustors and per formed other works of heating. The scribes and Phanors, always ready to object to something new began to find furit because Jesus Rept company with "publicant and sinners," and ate with them. The answer was a fi the ma well as full of reluke to the critics. He said.
They that are whole need no physician but they that
are sick." He intimated that these self-rightons people. were above all need, at least in their own opment but at for the needy who felt their need even if the north de-spined them, the was ready and also to minister in their necessities and to forgive their size. The winkest the toorest and the humblest may find comfort and matrice tota his Ultile Downsort.

-The free or voluntary pew system has thus far been a large success in the First majorst church Brooklyn, under the care of the Rev. Dr. Thomas and the management of his segurious to mess men. The ystem requires large conscientisusness in the part of hose who keep it up, and continual remainers from the iscal authorities of the church to keep the contributors. From becoming shick in their payors use the contribution the churches where the voluntary system has found it has churches where the voluntary system has here in his been because the people have been so the paper up and the fusiness management has been regioned in keeping them up to their promises. More excluse and covetous persons abuse the voluntary system con this that everybody else should do the puring ofthe they fall back on the alleged "freebon of the course and this support of the churches costs sensiting and must be unit for by someway. The true type of some education of the churches costs sensiting and must be used for by someway. The true type of a contributors is found in the case of a thorough man who recently that, on his death had in minimum during a cently died. On his death had in more one dodlar. This is just two couls a year. There are many in this city and brooklyn who would like to worth through half a century of praise, prayer, and practing

